WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for providing a channel information window overlaying a broadcast video, the method comprising:

transmitting a bitmap for the channel information window from a server system to a terminal;

receiving at the terminal a signal to activate the channel information window; and

overlaying at the terminal the bitmap for the channel information window over the broadcast video.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the bitmap for the channel information window is performed via an out-of-band channel.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the bitmap for the channel information window comprises:

encoding at the server system the bitmap for the channel information window to generate an encoded bitmap;

transmitting the encoded bitmap to the terminal;

receiving at the terminal the encoded bitmap;

decoding at the terminal the encoded bitmap to regenerate the bitmap for channel information window.

4.   A method for navigating within a channel information window, the method comprising:

selecting a mode for said navigation, where said mode restricts said navigation to a predetermined subset of available channels.

5.   A method for navigating between TV channels, the method comprising:

providing a channel information window overlaying a broadcast video display;

navigating among channels within the channel information window; and

6   changing the broadcast video display in synchronization with the

7   navigating among channels within the channel information window.

1   6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the channel information window is

2   provided by transmitting a bitmap for the channel information window from a server

3 ·   system.

1   7.   The method of claim 6, wherein changing the broadcast video

2   display is accomplished by changing which video packet stream is being decoded and

3   presented.

1   8.   The method of claim 5, wherein navigating among channels occurs

2   using a special button on a remote control to loop through a series of channels.